

DELTA SEABEES RVN

OCTOBER 1970 - MAY 1971



74 DOES MORE

DEPLOYMENT COMPLETION REPORT

U. S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION SEVENTY-FOUR
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK 09501

NMCB-74:S-3:th
5213
Ser 542
19 May 1971

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
SEVENTY-FOUR
To: Commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet
Subj: Deployment Completion Report

Ref: (a) COMCBPAC OPORD Ser CB31A52 of 17 August 1970
(b) COMCBPAC INST 5213.1E
(c) NMCB FIVE Deployment Completion Report of 10 February 1971

Encl: (1) NMCB SEVENTY-FOUR Deployment Completion Report

1. NMCB-74 was deployed to the Construction Battalion Center, Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam, as directed by reference (a) for the 1970-1971 deployment.

2. In accordance with reference (b), enclosure (1) is submitted. It is considered that reference (c) gives an extremely clear and complete picture of a deployment by detail in remote areas. This report is intended to reinforce and further expand reference (c). It is requested that careful consideration be given to the points of reference (c) and enclosure (1) which appear to point towards a significant change in the Naval Construction Forces (i.e. organization, equipment, training and deployment by sub-units).


J. D. KIRKPATRICK

Copy to:			
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COMCBPAC	2	COM31NCR	2
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COMCBLANT	1	COM20NCR	2
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DIR OF NAVAL HISTORY	1	CBC PORHUE (CODE 17)	1
CG III MAF	1	CBC PORHUE (CODE 15)	1
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INTRODUCTION

A normal deployment of a Mobile Construction Battalion is in support of U.S. Marines and/or U.S. Navy personnel. Both of these units have a vital interest in the construction tasks assigned to the Seabees, and because of this interest, they provide excellent support to the construction operation by providing security, air transportation and waterborne transportation as required without high level planning or tasking by others.

This was not the case on construction within the widely dispersed areas of the Delta. All construction assigned to this battalion was in support of the Vietnamese Navy, whose ideas of time and urgency are not always consistent with the requirements of efficient use of manpower, equipment and materials. The U.S. Navy was turning their waterborne transportation assets over to the Vietnamese at an accelerated rate, and moving their air assets out of Vietnam. They were of little help to the Seabees.

The higher level U.S. staffs did not have a full understanding of Seabee support requirements, and considered Seabees self sufficient in all respects. Although this was a compliment to the Seabees, it proved to be an almost insurmountable barrier in getting support for movement of construction materials, and foodstuffs, equipment, supervisory and special skill level personnel.

The use of good will and comshaw to obtain helicopter, fixed-wing and waterborne transportation support was a way of life to accomplish the assigned mission. Without these informal agreements, the competition for combat essential cargo, which had the highest priority, would have prevented adequate supervision and movement of construction materials.

Future deployments of battalions where adequate U. S. supporting assets are not available should be reviewed at the highest level, and adequate air and waterborne transportation assets should be supplied as attached units or augment equipment prior to deployment. Formal tasking for support by others should be obtained where local assets are not available.

UNIT MOVEMENTS

- 26 SEP 70 NMCB-74's Advance Party, consisting of six officers and 116 enlisted men, deployed to the Construction Center, Bien Hoa, RVN, to conduct the BEEP and prepare for turnover of the Base Camp and detail sites.
- 20-23 OCT 70 The Battalion Main Body arrived at CBC, Bien Hoa, RVN, with a total of 17 officers and 498 enlisted personnel.
- 20 OCT 70 Detail YANKEE, consisting of one officer and 75 enlisted men, moved to Danang to provide horizontal assistance to the THIRTY-SECOND Naval Construction Regiment.
- 20 OCT 70 Detail QUEBEC, consisting of two enlisted men, moved to Vung Tau to provide support for the various Delta construction sites.
- 20 OCT 70 Detail HOTEL, consisting of one officer and 67 enlisted men, moved to Long Phu to construct ACTOV and dependent housing facilities for turnover to the Vietnamese Navy.
- 20 OCT 70 Detail CHARLIE, consisting of one officer and 120 enlisted men, moved to Cho Moi to construct ACTOV and dependent housing facilities for turnover to the Vietnamese Navy.
- 22 OCT 70 Detail GOLF, consisting of one officer and 82 enlisted men, departed Bien Hoa for Nam Cam to construct ATSB, ACTOV and dependent housing facilities in support of "Solid Anchor".
- 25 OCT 70 Detail PAPA, consisting of 13 enlisted men, moved to Binh Thuy to provide support for the various construction sites in the Delta.
- 26 OCT 70 Detail OCTOBER, consisting of one officer and 13 enlisted men, moved to Tuyen Nhon to perform construction for canal bank erosion control.
- 27 OCT 70 Detail ZULU, consisting of 20 enlisted personnel, moved to Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon, to construct facilities for the relocation of 32 NCR Headquarters.
- 9 NOV 70 NMCB-74's Delayed Party consisting of four officers and 68 enlisted men, arrived in Bien Hoa from Gulfport, Mississippi.
- 8 DEC 70 Detail QUEBEC returned to CBC, Bien Hoa with two enlisted personnel from Vung Tau. Detail disestablished.

11 DEC 70 Detail ECHO, consisting of 14 enlisted men, moved to Dong Tam to rehabilitate advisors facilities.

15 DEC 70 A detachment of eight enlisted men moved to Vi Thanh to construct two SEA huts for Advisory Group 73.

18 DEC 70 Detail ZULU returned to CBC, Bien Hoa from Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon.

20 DEC 70 The detachment to Vi Thanh returned to CBC, Bien Hoa.

2 JAN 71 Detail FOXTROT, consisting of one officer and 15 enlisted men, departed Bien Hoa for Kien An to repair battle damage to ACTOV facilities.

7 JAN 71 Detail OCTOBER returned to CBC, Bien Hoa from Tuyen Nhon. Detail disestablished.

18 JAN 71 One officer and 41 enlisted men returned to Bien Hoa from Detail YANKEE in Danang.

2 FEB 71 Detail ECHO returned to Bien Hoa from Dong Tam. Detail disestablished.

3 FEB 71 Detail YANKEE, consisting of 23 enlisted personnel, returned to Bien Hoa from Danang. Detail disestablished.

5 FEB 71 Detail KILO departed Bien Hoa for Nui Ta Kou, RVN, with one officer and 47 enlisted men by convoy.

8 FEB 71 Well Drilling Crew departed Bien Hoa for Vung Tau enroute to Rach Dua with 5 enlisted men.

12 FEB 71 Detail JULIETT, consisting of one officer and 36 enlisted men, departed Bien Hoa for Mui Dinh, RVN, via LST for beach landing.

11 MAR 71 The five man Well Drilling Crew completed the Rach Dua well and departed for Cat Lo to begin drilling another well.

18 MAR 71 Detail FOXTROT, consisting of seven enlisted personnel, returned to Bien Hoa from Kien An. Detail disestablished.

22 MAR 70 NMCB-74 Advance Party consisting of one officer and 27 enlisted personnel departed Bien Hoa for return to CONUS.

23 MAR 71 Well Drilling Crew departed Cat Lo after real estate for the well could not be obtained and returned to Bien Hoa..

25 MAR 71 Well Drilling Crew departed Bien Hoa for Nui Ta Kou with five men for drilling of well at the Seabee base camp.

25 MAR 71 A detachment of eight personnel moved to Cat Lo from CBC, Bien Hoa.

26 MAR 71 Twenty-nine Detail KILO personnel returned to Bien Hoa from Nui Ta Kou after being replaced by personnel from NMCB-5.

30 MAR
1 APR 71 Ten personnel, reassigned from Detail KILO, departed Bien Hoa for Detail GOLF at Nam Can.

10 APR 71 One officer and 12 enlisted personnel returned to Bien Hoa from Detail KILO at Nui Ta Kou.

10 APR 71 Twenty-five Detail JULIETT personnel departed Mui Dinh by LST for Cam Ranh Bay enroute to Bien Hoa.

11 APR 71 Eleven Detail GOLF personnel returned to CBC, Bien Hoa from Nam Can.

14 APR 71 A total of 48 enlisted personnel returned to Bien Hoa from Detail CHARLIE at Cho Moi.

16 APR 71 Detail HOTEL, consisting of one officer and 42 enlisted men departed Long Phu for Bien Hoa. Detail disestablished.

16 APR 71 Nineteen Detail CHARLIE personnel returned to Bien Hoa from Cho Moi.

17 APR 71 Detail GOLF returned to Bien Hoa from Nam Can with one officer and 69 enlisted personnel. Detail disestablished.

20 APR 71 Eight personnel returned to Bien Hoa from Cat Lo.

20 APR 71 NMCB-74's first main body flight, consisting of five officers and 200 enlisted personnel departed Bien Hoa for the return to CONUS.

21 APR 71 One officer and 18 enlisted personnel departed Detail CHARLIE site at Cho Moi to return to Bien Hoa. Detail disestablished.

21 APR 71 Detail PAPA, consisting of one officer and nine enlisted men, returned to Bien Hoa from Binh Thuy. Detail relieved on site by NMCB-5 Detail PINTO. NMCB-74 Detail PAPA disestablished.

22 APR 71 NMCB-74's second main body flight departed Bien Hoa for return to CONUS with three officers and 203 enlisted personnel.

24 APR 71

The third and final main body flight, consisting of ten officers and 195 enlisted personnel, departed Bien Hoa for the return to CONUS.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 22 OCT 70 Construction Battalion Center, Bien Hoa, RVN was officially turned over by NMCB-5 to NMCB-74. Commander J. D. KIRKPATRICK, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer, NMCB-74, relieved Commander R. A. SCHADE, CEC, USN, Commanding Officer NMCB-5, of command of CBC, Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam.
- 22 OCT 70 CDR W. M. ZOBEL, COM3NCB REP Saigon, and party visited NMCB-74 Detail CHARLIE site.
- 6 NOV 70 Visit to NMCB-74 Base Camp by RADM W. M. ENGER, Commander NAVFACENCOM; CAPT F. M. LALOR, Jr., CO CBC PORHUE/31NCR; CAPT R. C. WILLIAMS, NAVFACENCOM; CDR W. M. ZOBEL, COM3NCB REP Saigon, and party.
- 11 NOV 70 The Hon. John A. VOLPE, U. S. Secretary of Transportation and party visited NMCB-74 Base Camp at Bien Hoa, RVN.
- 11 NOV 70 Detail CHARLIE site at Cho Moi was visited by CAPT J. F. DOBSON of NAVFORV and party.
- 12 NOV 70 CDR W. M. ZOBEL, COM3NCB REP Saigon and party visited Detail GOLF site at Nam Can.
- 17 NOV 70 Detail CHARLIE site was visited by RADM R. E. ADAMSON, Commander, U. S. Naval Support Activity, CAPT J. G. DEVLIN, Public Works Officer, NSA Saigon, and party.
- 17 NOV 70 CE3 L. A. DAHMS was fatally injured when he fell from a 50 ft. MARS Station antenna pole.
- 17 NOV 70 An unknown number of mortar rounds struck the Bien Hoa AFB complex. No injuries resulted to NMCB-74 personnel.
- 3 DEC 70 NMCB-74 personnel celebrated the FOURTH (4th) Anniversary of the Battalion's recommissioning with activities including a barbeque, sporting events and a floor show.
- 3 DEC 70 RADM A. R. MARSCHALL, COM3NCB; CAPT J. R. FISHER, Ass't COMNAVFAC for MIL Readiness, Washington, D. C.; CAPT W. M. ZOBEL, COM32NCR, Saigon visited CBC, Bien Hoa to participate in NMCB-74 Fourth Anniversary activities.
- 4 DEC 70 CAPT J. R. FISHER, Ass't COMNAVFAC for MIL Readiness, Washington, D. C., visited Detail HOTEL.

11 DEC 70 RADM S. R. SMITH, COMCBPAC, and party visited CBC, Bien Hoa.

24 DEC 70 CAPT J. F. DOBSON, COMNAVFORV, and party visited Detail OCTOBER.

30 DEC 70 Two Detail CHARLIE personnel returning from Binh Thuy in a skimmer boat received 15 rounds of automatic rifle fire from the bank at AP Dong Binh. Rounds hit within 10 feet of skimmer, however, no casualties or damage resulted.

30 DEC 70 Detail ECHO at Dong Tam received 5 mortar rounds. No damage or casualties resulted.

31 DEC 70 BU2 Jerry B. EDMONDS, Jr., CE3 Harold E. ASHER, EOCN Edger Peter BECK, CN Wayne Sterling RUSHTON, and CN Frank NEUBAUER, assigned to Detail CHARLIE, were killed in action by VC forces while traveling by boat between Cho Moi and Binh Thuy, RVN.

3 JAN 71 Detail ECHO received 3 mortar rounds at approximately 0245 hours. No damage or casualties resulted.

5 JAN 71 CAPT W. M. ZOBEL, COM32NCR, and party visited Detail CHARLIE at Cho Moi and Detail OCTOBER at Tuyen Nhon to view construction progress.

9 JAN 71 Ten rounds of 82mm mortar fire struck the Solid Anchor Complex at Nam Can. Schrapnel damage to MLO/supply warehouse and advisors galley/BEQ resulted. One seabee received minor wounds.

10 JAN 71 RADM A. R. MARSCHALL, OICC RVN/COM3NCB, visited CBC, Bien Hoa to present awards at Battalion Quarters including the Meritorious Service Medal to CDR J. D. KIRKPATRICK, Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR.

13 JAN 71 Two sniper rounds struck the front end of an MRS tractor operated by an equipment operator while working on the runway at Nam Can.

17 JAN 71 Management Inspection visit was held by CBPAC (Codes 30 and 40). Inspecting party consisted of CDR R. L. SIEGLE and CDR B. YOUNG, both of CBPAC.

18 JAN 71 CDR R. L. SIEGLE, CBPAC, visited Detail CHARLIE site.

19 JAN 71 CDR R. L. SIEGLE, CBPAC, visited Detail GOLF site.

19 JAN 71 An unknown number of VC attacked and sank a VNN

junk boat on the river near the Detail HOTEL site at Long Phu. One VNN was killed in action and two VNN were reported missing in action.

- 22 JAN 71 Two rounds of 122mm rocket fire struck the Bien Hoa AFB complex.
- 23 JAN 71 Approximately 15-20 rounds of enemy mortar fire were received at the Solid Anchor Complex, Nam Can. No seabee casualties resulted.
- 25 JAN 71 CDR H. E. KEPPEL, LCDR OTT and party of CBMU-302 visited CBC, Bien Hoa and toured facilities.
- 25 JAN 71 The Solid Anchor Complex at Nam Can received approximately 75 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Ten to twelve rounds struck inside the Detail GOLF compound. Minor damage resulted to 3 structures, a dump truck, and a TD-20. No seabee casualties resulted.
- 28 JAN 71 Two sniper rounds were fired at Detail HOTEL personnel. No injuries or damage resulted.
- 31 JAN 71 A single mortar round struck the Solid Anchor Complex at Nam Can. No injuries or damage were received by Detail GOLF.
- 1-2FEB 71 CAPT W. R. ROGERS, COMCBLANT, and EQCM EGELUS, MCPO CBLANT, visited CBC, Bien Hoa and toured facilities.
- 4-7FEB 71 Predeployment visit to CBC, Bien Hoa by CDR R. A. SCHADE, Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE and party.
- 11 FEB 71 Detail KILO personnel at Nui Ta Kou discovered a metallic type mine on Route 341. The mine was detonated in place with no injuries resulting.
- 12-14FEB 71 LTJG P. McCOY and Mr. Dick SPENCER of Seabee Systems Engineering Office (SSEO), Port Hueneme, California, visited NMCB-74.
- 13 FEB 71 While working on Route 341, Detail KILO personnel discovered 15lb. and 40lb. mines. The mines were detonated in place. Also, a TD-20 detonated a booby trapped 105MM round on Route 341. Detail KILO personnel received small arms fire from unknown sources on the East side of Route 341. Negative injuries and damage resulted.
- 17-18FEB 71 CBPAC Equipment Inspection was held.

18 FEB 71 Detail GOLF at Nam Can received approximately five rounds of mortar fire. Minor damage resulted to a transit mixer, welder, and the CM Shop. No Detail GOLF personnel were injured.

19 FEB 71 NMCB-74's LCM6 was fired upon by a sampan while enroute to Detail HOTEL from Detail PAPA. The LCM6 received minor damage.

21 FEB 71 RADM G. REIDER, Commander, FIRST Reserve Naval Construction Brigade, and party visited CBC, Bien Hoa.

21 FEB 71 CAPT E. H. MARSH II, CBPAC, and party visited Detail JULIETT at Mui Dinh, RVN.

21 FEB 71 A small unit of VC was detected at the Southeast corner of OP Base, Kien An. Attack was repelled. Detail FOXTROT personnel received no injuries and no damage resulted.

24-26 FEB 71 CBPAC conducted the Annual Supply Inspection (ASI).

28 FEB 71 Approximately five mortar rounds struck the Solid Anchor Complex at Nam Can. No injuries or damage were received by Detail GOLF.

28 FEB 71 At approximately 2300 hrs, unknown sources fired a B-40 rocket which struck the main entrance to the Bien Hoa Army Base, adjacent to the Construction Battalion Center. Security forces returned fire. No damage or injuries resulted.

1 MAR 71 NMCB-74 personnel participated in Change of Command of 3NCB.

3 MAR 71 Seabee/Civil Engineer Corps Anniversary was observed by all hands with appropriate sporting events in the afternoon and a floor show in the evening.

6-7 MAR 71 CAPT DOMINY, CHC, CBPAC Chaplain, and CDR BECKER, MSC, visited the NMCB-74 Base Camp at Bien Hoa.

11 MAR 71 Detail KILO personnel located a mine consisting of 20 lbs of C-4 flake and a 155MM round buried on Rt. 341. The mine was detonated in place and no injuries resulted.

14 MAR 71 A 105MM round was found by Detail KILO personnel on Rt. 341. Evidence indicated that the installation of a booby trap was aborted when the sweep team came near. The round was detonated in place with no injuries resulting.

16 MAR 71 The Bien Hoa Air Base received an unknown number of rockets near the Construction Battalion Center. No NMCB-74 personnel received injuries.

17 MAR 71 NMCB-5 Advance Party arrived at Bien Hoa from CBC, Port Hueneme.

22 MAR 71 NMCB-74 Advance Party and NMCB-133 Detail KANGROO departed Bien Hoa for CBC, Gulfport.

22 MAR 71 NMCB-5 Detail STALLION arrived at Bien Hoa from CBC, Port Hueneme.

23 MAR 71 Detail KILO personnel located and successfully eliminated two non-metallic type mines with slap-stick detonation devices at different locations on Rt. 341. A third mine of a similar type with a delayed fuse detonated between two NMCB-74 vehicles on Rt. 341. No injuries or vehicle damage was sustained.

28 MAR 71 A 155MM round was found adjacent to Rt. 341 by Detail KILO personnel. C-4 explosive was used to destroy the round. No injuries resulted.

28 MAR 71 A VC patrol initiated action with Regional Forces behind the Base Camp at Mui Dinh. Small arms fire and grenades were utilized. No injuries or damage were received by Detail JULIETT.

2 APR 71 Two platoons of VC forces attacked local RF Forces with mortar and ground fire adjacent to the Detail KILO site at Nui Ta Kou. No contact was made by Detail KILO. Later in the morning, two enemy mines were located on Route 341. The first mine, a 30 lb., pressure release type, was detonated in place. The second mine was detonated by a stray cow. Detail KILO personnel received no injuries.

8 APR 71 CAPT A. W. WALTON, Jr. of NAVFAC and party visited the Construction Battalion Center, Bien Hoa and toured facilities.

22 APR 71 Change of Command of CBC, Bien Hoa was held as CBMU-302 assumed control of the camp from NMCB-74. All projects held by NMCB-74 were turned over to NMCB-5 Detail STALLION this date.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS*

Navy and Marine Corps Medal

BUCN J. L. DON

Meritorious Service Medal

CDR J. D. KIRKPATRICK, CEC, USN

Navy Commendation Medal (with Combat "V")

LCDR R. H. HALL, CEC, USN

EO2 M. E. MORISOLI

EO3 J. A. KUENSTLER

Navy Achievement Medal (with Combat "V")

LTJG J. D. MCKINNEY

BUL C. G. MCKINNEY

Purple Heart

EO3 D. W. JOHNSON, JR.

EOCN E. P. BECK, JR. (Posthumously)

CE3 H. E. ASHER (Posthumously)

CN J. F. NEUBAUER (Posthumously)

BU2 J. B. EDMONDS (Posthumously)

SWCN W. S. RUSHTON (Posthumously)

EO3 G. W. ROOD

Combat Action Pibbon - 24

Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon

CUCM R. C. NECESSARY

EAL G. H. KIDD

Good Conduct Medal - 13

Vietnamese Service Medal - 520

Vietnamese Campaign Medal - 645

Expert Pistol Medal - 10

Expert Rifle Medal - 30

* Awards presented during the deployment not including those pending.